

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, IN
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT REDDY ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT

1. PRESIDENT REDDY PRESENTED THE JANATA GOVERNMENT'S
ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO THE NATION IN AN
ADDRESS OPENING THE BUDGET SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ON
FEBRUARY 20. THE PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTED, ON THE DOMESTIC
POLITICAL SCENE, THE GOVERNMENT'S PAST AND PLANNED STEPS
TO RESTORE CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE PEOPLE'S FAITH IN
GOVERNMENT, AND, ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, THE GOI'S
UNSPARING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA'S NEIGHBORS.

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2. REDDY OBSERVED THAT RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE
GRADUALLY IMPROVING DESPITE UNRESOLVED BORDER
DIFFERENCES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT "HAS
BASED ITS RELATIONS WITH THE GREAT POWERS ON THE FIRM
BELIEF IN A COMMITMENT TO GENUINE NONALIGNMENT,
BENEFICIAL BILATERALISM AND FURTHERANCE OF CONSTRUCTIVE
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE

MANY-SIDED COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH WE HAVE BUILT WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WILL BE STRENGTHEND AND ENRICHED. WE HAVE ACHIEVED CORDIALITY AND FRIENDSHIP IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WESTERN DEMOCRACIES WITH WHOM WE SHARE A COMMON BELIEF IN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES WHICH WE MAY HAVE HAD IN THE PAST, WE CAN NOW FOSTER THESE RELATIONS TO A NEW LEVEL AND QUALITY OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE WHICH WILL TRANSCEND DIFFERENCES ON SPECIFIC MATTERS AND ENLARGE THE AREA OF UNDERSTANDING AND FAITH IN EACH OTHER."

3. THE PRESIDENT URGED THE MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS TO "ARRIVE AT AN EARLY AGREEMENT ON TEST BAN, ON REDUCTION AND ULTIMATE ELIMINATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND ON PEACEFUL EXPLOITATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATIONWE HOPE THAT THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE PROPOSED TO BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR THE MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS WILL BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE AN AGREED AND TIME-BOUND PROGRAM OF DISARMAMENT. FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE REITERATED OUR SOLEMN RESOLVE TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND HAVE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WILL UNILATERALLY DESIST FROM MAKING NUCLEAR TESTS. WE ARE, HOWEVER, OPPOSED TO ANY FORM OF

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DISCRIMINATION IN THIS VITAL SECTOR." (FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE, IN A FEB. 20 PRESS CONFERENCE IN NAGPUR SAID THE GOI ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT INDIA AND OTHER NONALIGNED STATES WOULD PRESS DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION FOR A DECLARATION BY THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES THAT ANY USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.)

4. REDDY APPEALED TO THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT A VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, WHICH HE RANKED WITH PROHIBITION AS A "SUBJECT OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO FAMILY WELFARE."

5. ABOUT ONE QUARTER OF THE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. AFTER CLAIMING CREDIT FOR THE GROWTH IN GNP IN THIS FISCAL YEAR (ATTRIBUTABLE TO IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION), THE PRESIDENT REITERATED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO FIGHT INFLATION AND TO REDIRECT THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT TOWARD RURAL AREAS. HE CITED THE BENEFITS OF THE GOI'S INDUSTRIAL AND FOREIGN TRADE POLICIES, AND APPEALED

FOR LABOR PEACE. IN A PASSAGE WHICH HAD A RING OF
NOVELTY FROM A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IN INDIA, HE SAID
THAT ECONOMIC CONTROLS AND REGULATIONS "THAT HAD
OUTLIVED THEIR UTILITY SHOULD BE REMOVED SO THAT THE
ENTERPRISE AND INITIATIVE OF THE PEOPLE HAVE FULL
PLAY IN DETERMINING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY."
GOHEEN

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